

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT

Employment Development Department

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TO: SERVICE DELIVERY AREA ADMINISTRATORS  
PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS  
JTPD PROGRAM OPERATORS  
EDD JOB SERVICE OFFICE MANAGERS  
JTPD STAFF

SUBJECT: JANUARY 15, 1999, SDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE  
CALL SUMMARY

This transmits a summary of the January 15, 1999, Service Delivery Area (SDA) Advisory Committee conference call.

If you have questions or comments regarding the summary, please contact Jackie Owen at (916) 654-8006.

/S/ BILL BURKE  
Assistant Deputy Director

Attachments

## SERVICE DELIVERY AREA (SDA) ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Employment Development Department  
Job Training Partnership Division  
750 N Street, Park Complex West, Conference Room A  
Sacramento, California  
Friday, January 15, 1999

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### Agenda

10:30 a.m.	Welcome/Hot Topics/Agenda Building	Bill Burke, Job Training Partnership Division (JTPD)
10:45 a.m.	Workforce Investment Act of 1998 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Update</li></ul>	Vicki Johnsrud Workforce Investment Transition Division
11:15 a.m.	One-Stop Collocation: Shared Cost	Sue Cleere-Flores Los Angeles City SDA
11:30 a.m.	Access to Unemployment Insurance Base Wage Files	Sue Cleere-Flores
11:45 p.m.	Welfare-to-Work Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Update</li><li>• SDA Report: Discussion of Coordination Efforts and Referral Process Between County Welfare Departments and SDAs</li></ul>	Bill Burke, JTPD SDA Administrators
12:15 p.m.	Open Discussion	All
12:30 p.m.	Adjourn Meeting	

# SERVICE DELIVERY AREA (SDA) ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 15, 1999

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## **Welcome/Hot Topics/Agenda Building**

- New Administration Appointments—Grantland Johnson was appointed to the position of Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency.
- Joint Task Force on Workforce Investment—Members of the task force include Senators Solis, Johnston, Alpert, and Vasconcellos. Informational hearings are scheduled for January 20, 26 and February 9, 1999.
- ListBot—Renee Bomgardner, San Joaquin County SDA, created ListBot. It is an electronic bulletin board established for the purpose of promoting a discussion of issues relative to the implementation of the Welfare-to-Work (WtW) program. As a state entity, the Job Training Partnership Division (JTPD) will not directly utilize ListBot and will continue to disseminate information consistent with current practices.
- Title III Update—The Governor's Office and the Legislature are taking a direct interest in providing a response to the freeze-impacted areas. A variety of funding options are being explored. The Department of Labor (DOL), Regional and National offices, as well as congressional staff are discussing alternative funding sources for migrant seasonal farmworkers for use on a one-time, emergency basis. The use of General Fund money is also being discussed.

At the state level, the JTPD is briefing the Governor's Office on funding options and has identified \$1.5 million voluntarily deobligated by several SDAs from a portion of their flood project funds for redirection to freeze-affected counties. The JTPD also has requested \$10 million in National Reserve Account funds; however, the Secretary of Labor cannot release National Reserve Account funds without a Presidential Declaration being issued by the White House, nor can the state receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance funds without such a declaration.

Eligibility requirements for freeze-affected workers remain the same as flood-affected workers; those affected by the freeze and that meet eligibility requirements could be placed as additional help for flood-related cleanup in freeze-affected counties. This applies to long-term unemployed as well. Currently, there are 3,658 disaster-related claims filed with the Unemployment Insurance Division.

## **Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998**

- State Update—Kathy Castillo, Workforce Investment Transition Office, provided a brief update on WIA activities. The Governor's Budget specifically addresses workforce development and requires a unified state Workforce Investment Plan in California by October 1999.

Rona Halibran and Doug Brown, staff to Senators Johnston and Vasconcellos, respectively, are coordinating the Joint Task Force on Workforce Investment. The purpose of the task force is informational and provides a venue for new legislative members and their staff to become familiar with WIA. Three hearings are scheduled for January 20, 26, and February 9, 1999.

The January 20 hearing will focus on California's economy and the private sector perspective. Employers and labor are invited to testify.

On January 26 the hearing will focus on the federal, state and local perspective relative to California's economy and workforce investment. Ray Uhalde, Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOL, will provide the federal perspective. The State Job Training Coordinating Council (SJTCC), Employment Development Department (EDD), Department of Social Services, Department of Education, and Employment Training Panel will represent the state perspective. Community-based organizations, local elected officials, and Service Delivery Areas will represent the local perspective. Each panelist will be given three minutes to speak relative to issues and opportunities in the Act.

The February 9 hearing is sponsored by the California Research Bureau and will provide an overview of the workforce development system (the 23 employment and training systems, funding streams, client base, etc.) Panelists will discuss planning efforts in California relative to one-stop and performance-based accountability.

Once the hearings are concluded, issues will be divided and the task force will meet with interested parties. From those meetings, the task force will draft issues, options and language for inclusion into SB 43.

### **Update on State Bills**

Senate Bill (SB) 43 (Johnston) establishes a 43-member state workforce investment board and repeals the SJTCC and the Family Economic Security Act. The bill sponsors the creation of a state-unified plan, including secondary and post secondary vocational education and moves the Employment Training Panel to the Trade and Commerce Agency.

SB 88 (Escutia) establishes a 41-member State Workforce Investment Board.

SB 146 (Solis) modifies the SJTCC.

SB 150 (Solis) creates a labor agency, relocates the EDD to a labor-based agency, and includes the Department of Industrial Relations, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Contractors' State Licensing Board, and others.

#### Preview Draft Interim Regulations on WIA

The DOL received extensive comments on the interim regulations in the following areas:

- Grandfathering of the state boards
- Size of the state and local boards
- Definition of administrative costs
- The summer youth program and procurement of services
- One-stop partner and participation
- Priority of services
- The sequencing of services
- Hold harmless for local areas
- One-stop operator supervision of Wagner-Peyser staff
- Regional Planning provisions
- Training providers and individual training accounts
- Youth definitions (the need for legislative changes)

#### **One-Stop Collocation: Shared Cost**

Discussion of this item was deferred to the March 5, 1999, SDA Advisory Committee meeting.

#### **Access to Unemployment Insurance Base Wage Files**

Discussion on this item was deferred to the March 5, 1999, SDA Advisory Committee meeting.

#### **Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Program**

- State Update—The Legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's office have expressed a great deal of interest in the WtW program relative to coordination/enrollment efforts. The JTPD continues to meet with representatives from DOL and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as they express their interest and concern in their respective areas.

WtW Second-Year Plan—Public hearings to receive comments on the plan are tentatively scheduled for February 15-19, 1999. The plan is currently in the clearance process. The target date for placing the plan on the web site is January 27, 1999.

- SDA Report—Discussion of Coordination Efforts and Referral Process Between County Welfare Departments (CWD) and SDAs.

Michael Evashenk and Jim Curtis, JTPD, met with representatives from the Los Angeles CWD, Los Angeles area SDAs, DOL, California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and DHHS to express state concerns relative to slow implementation and low referral/enrollment rates into the WtW program. During the meeting, discussions revealed that, while Los Angeles County has built collaborative relations with key partners, their focus has been on enrolling the mandatory number of participants into CalWORKs. As a result, they have not been as responsive to the needs of the SDAs and the competitive grantees.

A general misunderstanding of the confidentiality and six-month look-back rule also seemed to be creating barriers and has prevented a smooth referral of clients to WtW. The JTPD and CDSS are in the process of amending the All County Letter to provide clarification relative to the confidentiality and look-back rule. A second follow-up meeting is scheduled for April in Los Angeles.

Charlie Peterson, North Central Counties SDA, expressed that staff throughout the five-county consortium are experiencing confusion with enrollment forms and a lack of definitions contained in the State Forms Handbook. Liz Clingman responded that if a term is not defined in the State Forms Handbook, then SDAs are to use local discretion, with an expectation of consistency in the SDA. The SDAs will be evaluated on the local rules they have implemented.

Steve Arcelona, San Francisco SDA, is finding that CalWORKs/WtW is beginning to drive the kind of documentation needed for other programs.

### **Open Discussion**

- Performance Calculations Under Waivers—Terry Tatum, Merced County, expressed concern that as a result of their good performance in 1997-98, and having accepting all optional waivers, the SDA now has extremely high performance goals. Larry Fitch, San Diego SDA, expressed the same concern. The JTPD staff will contact the two SDAs directly to determine that the SDA and State are working with the same data.
- California Integrated Workforce Development Plan—Mike Curran will represent the SDAs at a January 21, 1999, meeting to review the draft document and requested input to take to the meeting.

The conference call ended at 12:15 p.m.